

National Park Service

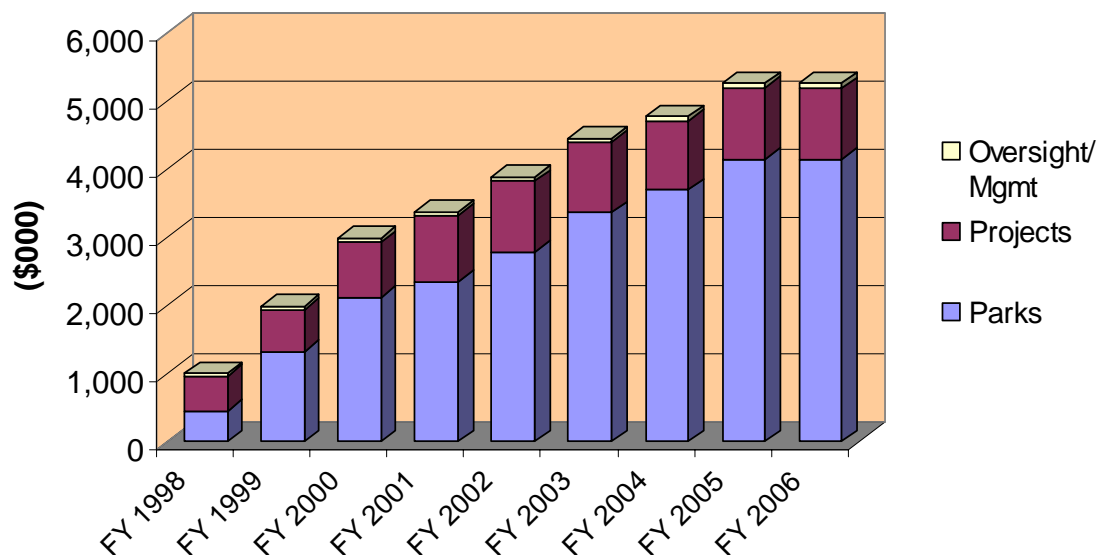
Vanishing Treasures Initiative: Ruins Preservation in the American Southwest

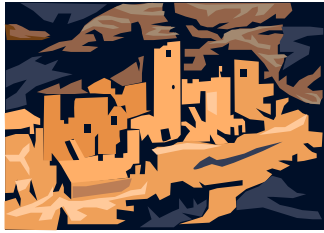
The Vanishing Treasures Initiative was established in FY 1998 to provide funding to reduce threats to prehistoric and historic sites and structures in 44 parks of the Intermountain Region. In 2002, the program was expanded to include 3 parks in the Pacific West Region. The goal is to overcome backlogged preservation work by bringing sites and structures to a condition in which they will be preserved by routine maintenance activities. In addition, the intent is to increase NPS expertise and capability for maintaining these sites and structures.

Three primary thrusts define the Vanishing Treasures Initiative. First, the initiative seeks to eliminate resource loss by addressing emergency project needs where structures are in immediate, imminent danger from natural erosive factors or the cumulative pressures of visitation. Secondly, it focuses on replacement of an aging workforce that has unique craft skills that will be lost unless these people can mentor new, younger workers before they retire. Third, throughout its life span, the initiative strives to move to a proactive preservation program in which structures would be evaluated and ranked for treatment priority, and the best preservation options selected. As outlined in the “Vanishing Treasures Strategic Plan,” the program is led by a Management Team which defines policy, ensures program consistency and accountability, and provides overall program coordination.

The goals of the “Vanishing Treasures Strategic Plan” include developing a standardized system to measure inventory, condition assessment, and accomplishments; formulating a workforce augmentation and replacement plan; seeking appropriate avenues for providing adequate and consistent funding and other support; and establishing guidelines for consistency in strategy and technical application, and defining the ruins preservation process. Since the program’s inception, 27 parks have received base funding increases to hire and train skilled preservation staff. Approximately 1/3 of the funds have been used for emergency projects and program management.

Vanishing Treasures Initiative Funding





NPS Vanishing Treasures Funding, FY 1998 through FY 2006

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 1998 Program	FY 1999 Program	FY 2000 Program	FY 2001 Program	FY 2002 Program	FY 2003 Program	FY 2004 Program	FY 2005 Program	Cumulative through FY 2005	Requested FY 2006 Program
REGIONAL OFFICE										
Projects	505	628	815	973	1,038	1,031	1,010	1,044	7,044	1,043
Oversight/Mgmt	42	44	56	60	60	60	69	69	69	69
Subtotal Regional Office	547	672	871	1,033	1,098	1,091	1,079	1,113	7,113	1,112
PARKS										
Aztec Ruins NM	84	88	88	146	146	145	143	143		143
Bandelier NM		113	113	113	113	112	111	111		111
Canyon de Chelly NM					58	133	131	131		131
Canyonlands NP					118	117	116	116		116
Casa Grande Ruins NM				68	68	68	68	139		139
Chaco Culture NHP		214	214	269	324	321	317	317		317
El Malpais NM		68	126	126	126	125	123	148		148
El Morro NM				55	55	55	55	55		55
Fort Bowie NHS	34	89	89	89	89	89	89	89		89
Fort Davis NHS			110	110	110	109	108	108		108
Fort Union NM					71	71	71	152		152
Glen Canyon NRA					63	63	63	63		63
Golden Spike NHS								94		94
Grand Canyon NP			58	58	58	58	58	147		147
Hovenweep NM					70	145	143	143		143
Mesa Verde NP	67	71	332	332	332	329	486	486		486
Montezuma Castle NM/Tuzigoot NM		106	106	106	106	192	189	189		189
Navajo NM	33	37	117	117	117	116	115	194		194
Organ Pipe Cactus NM							72	79		79
Salinas Pueblo Missions NHP	33	181	236	236	236	359	354	354		354
San Antonio Missions NHS		71	126	126	126	197	264	264		264
Tonto NM	51	55	55	55	55	55	55	55		55
Tumacacori NHP	91	104	167	167	167	166	164	164		164
Wupatki/Sunset Crater/Walnut Canyon	60	118	173	173	173	334	399	399		399
Subtotal, Parks	453	1,315	2,110	2,346	2,781	3,359	3,694	4,140	4,140	4,140
Total, Vanishing Treasures	1,000	1,987	2,981	3,379	3,879	4,450	4,773	5,253		5,252
Total Additional Funding through FY 2005¹									11,253	

¹ Includes most-recent annual park base for each park, management and cumulative total for projects.